

John McCarthy has been MIGA's executive director since 1992. MIGA employs a lobbyist in Washington, D.C., Frank Ducheneaux, and a lobbying firm in the Twin Cities, North State Advisors, to work on state issues. Most of the Minnesota tribes also employ their own lobbyists²⁰ and these lobbyists, although not employed directly by MIGA, often work on MIGA's behalf to promote the tribes' common goals.

MIGA is officially governed by a three-member governing board – consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer – elected by the membership. During the pendency of the Hudson application, Myron Ellis (a tribal leader with the Leech Lake Band) initially served as the MIGA Chairman and Stanley Crooks (Chairman of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux) was Vice-Chairman. Melanie Benjamin, a tribal officer with the Mille Lacs Band, served as MIGA's Secretary-Treasurer during this period. MIGA is funded primarily through dues paid by the member tribes, with most of its annual operating budget – which in 1994-95 was approximately \$450,000 – paying fees for lobbying, public relations and consulting services.

In neighboring Wisconsin, Indian gaming is also common among the 11 recognized tribes with reservations in the state.²¹ The Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, located near Green Bay, operates a highly successful casino that draws a large portion of its clientele from the Chicago area. The Ho-Chunk Nation, whose land is spread throughout 16 counties in south central

²⁰*E.g.*, Virginia Boylan works for the Shakopee, Gerry Sikorski works for the Mille Lacs and Larry Kitto worked for several Minnesota tribes.

²¹*See the Map.*